

Message Text

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TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 236610

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTIO 10020 ACTION TUNIS INFO SECSTATE
SEP 30.

QUOTE S E C R E T SECTO 10020

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), PORG, US, TS

SUBJECT: ILO

REF: TUNIS 6893

1. NOUIRA'S OFFER TO CO-SPONSOR RESOLUTION WITH SADAT AT
NOVEMBER 1977 ILO GOVERNING BODY CALLING FOR ADOPTION OF
REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS WOULD BE
CRITICAL IN DETERMINING AFL-CIO'S ATTITUDE ON WITHDRAWAL.
MORE THAN ANY SINGLE STEP, IT WAS FAILURE OF JUNE 1977
CONFERENCE TO ADOPT REPORT--WITH ITS CRITICAL PARAGRAPH
31 PROCLAIMING THAT ILO CONVENTIONS SHOULD BE APPLIED WITH
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A SINGLE STANDARD FOR ALL COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL
SYSTEM--WHICH IS PERSUADING OPPONENTS OF POSTPONEMENT
TO PRESS FOR WITHDRAWAL. WERE TUNISIA AND EGYPT TO TAKE THE LEAD
IN REVISING THE JUNE DECISION, THIS COULD ALSO BE CRITICAL.
THEIR DELEGATIONS WERE THE MOST AGGRESSIVELY ANTI-AMERICAN
AT THE JUNE 1977 CONFERENCE. A CHANGE OF HEART ON THEIR
PART COULD BE INFLUENTIAL WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS.

2. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, AT PROPOSAL TO CONVENE SPECIAL SESSION OF ILO IN MARCH 1978 TO CONSIDER ONLY THIS ITEM. LESSON OF LAST TWO YEARS SEEMS TO BE THAT THIS KIND OF CONFRONTATIONAL APPROACH MAY WORK FOR A TIME BUT IN THE END ENCOURAGES COUNTRIES TO REACT VERY NEGATIVELY. A SPECIAL SESSION WHICH SUMMONED DELEGATIONS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO CONSIDER ONLY ONE ITEM --A REPORT THAT IS CRITICAL OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES OF 25 COUNTRIES--COULD BE MORE THAN THE MAJORITY WOULD SWALLOW.

3. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE WONDER WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER TO RAISE THE ITEM AT THE NEXT ILO CONFERENCE. THIS WOULD CONVENE IN JUNE 1978 OR ONLY THREE MONTHS, IN FACT, AFTER IT WOULD BE CONSTITUTIONALLY POSSIBLE TO CONVENE A SPECIAL SESSION. TUNISIA COULD INSCRIBE A NEW AGENDA ITEM UNDER ARTICLE 14 OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH STATES THAT THE CONFERENCE AGENDA IS SETTLED BY THE ILO GOVERNING BODY," WHICH SHALL CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE AGENDA THAT MAY BE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ANY OF THE MEMBERS..." IN SHORT, THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT EGYPT AND TUNISIA SIMPLY FROM PROPOSING TO THE NOVEMBER 1977 GOVERNING BODY THAT THE JUNE 1978 CONFERENCE RE-CONSIDER THE REJECTED JUNE 1977 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION
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OF CONVENTIONS.

4. IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, WE SUGGEST YOU INFORM NOUIRA:

(A) HIS PROPOSED ACTION COULD BE CRITICAL BECAUSE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS, THE REJECTION OF WHICH IS REGARDED BY SOME AS A REPUDIATION OF THE ILO COMPLIANCE MACHINERY ITSELF--THE VERY HEART OF THE ORGANIZATION.

(B) TUNISIA AND EGYPT WOULD HAVE A DECISIVE INFLUENCE ON OTHER DELEGATIONS BECAUSE OF THE LEADING KEY ROLE THEY PLAYED IN JUNE 1977.

(C) THE KEY GOAL IS A FAVORABLE VOTE ON THIS ISSUE BY THE MEMBERSHIP. WE WOULD LEAVE TO TUNISIA AND EGYPT THE BEST WAY TO REACH THIS GOAL. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF IMPACT ON THE U.S., TAKING THIS ISSUE UP AT THE JUNE 1978 REGULAR CONFERENCE COULD, HOWEVER, BE JUST AS EFFECTIVE AS TAKING IT UP AT A SPECIAL SESSION SINCE IN EITHER EVENT THE U.S. WOULD LEARN PUBLICLY OF TUNISIA'S INTENTIONS AT THE SAME TIME--I.E. WHEN IT ASKED THE NOVEMBER 1977 GOVERNING BODY TO

UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS. TUNISIA IS IN A BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE WHICH APPROACH WOULD BE THE LEAST CONFRONTATIONAL.

(D) THE APPROPRIATE WAY FOR STATES TO REGISTER DISAGREEMENT WITH THE REPORT WOULD BE BY MEANS OF RESERVATIONS FOR THE RECORD.

(E) THE FINAL U.S. DECISION IN THE ILO REMAINS WITH THE PRESIDENT, BUT THE ACTION PROPOSED BY TUNISIA WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE A VERY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT.

(F) WE BELIEVE THIS INITIATIVE WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO SUCCEED IF TUNISIA AND NOT THE U.S. APPROACHED SADAT TO SEEK HIS HELP.

VANCE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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